

Reading: 1 Samuel Chapters 1 & 2 verses 11 and 18-21

Hannah a godly woman hoped for many years to be given a baby. She was very upset that she was not given a baby, Elkanah her husband who loved her very much was also upset.

So Hannah went to the house of God to ask for His help. Hannah prayed very hard to God and while she was praying in the Temple Eli, the priest, (he was the only one who was allowed in this very special place to talk to God) was sitting on a seat by a post of the Temple and heard Hannah praying silently but with her lips moving, and Eli realised that Hannah was praying very hard and with great feeling Eli encouraged her. While Hannah was praying to God she said in her prayer to God "I will give him unto God all the days of his life" this means that she would lend him to God who would look after him and take greater care of him even than she herself. This was a great sacrifice and showed her trust in God. After she had finished praying Hannah went her way, and did eat and she was no longer sad.

Hannah waited eagerly for the day when her son would be born, and how pleased and thankful she would be to have a baby of her own. Hannah called her son Samuel (which means heard of God). Hannah called her son Samuel because God heard and answered her prayer. Samuel became very dear and precious to Hannah, but she had made a sacred promise and it had to be fulfilled. It would of been very hard for Hannah to give away her baby but Hannah had great faith and trust in God to take care of her son. As Eli was a man of God her little boy would not only be quite safe, but could be brought up in God's House and become eventually a great prophet.

When Hannah and Elkanah went up to the Temple with Samuel they took gifts as tokens of gratitude to Eli.

In the Temple Samuel would find so many interesting things to do in his work for Eli that he would probably not feel sad for very long and no doubt his mother kept in touch with him to help him. Each year Hannah and her husband came to worship and offer a sacrifice and in Samuel's early years she may have visited him at other times as well. Each year Hannah took a little coat which she had made herself.

Hannah would miss Samuel very much so God helped her. God showed his love by giving Hannah more children. Hannah gave God one child and she received many more. This is how God's love is shown to His servants. His gifts far outweigh anything we can offer.

Point to remember:- God answers prayers if we earnestly pray to Him.